

Maniac's Paradise

Issue 105

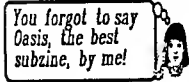
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at ManiacsP, but please only send orders to Compuserve address!

Subscriptions are \$2 an issue in US and Canada, \$4 overseas. Game fees vary.

Articles and Sub-Zine submissions are gladly accepted provided I can make nasty remarks about them behind your back, throw a typo in here and there, and that you join my various multi-level hobby conspiracies to further my MegaDip strategies.

First of all, congrats to Jack and Maria McHugh who should now be officially married! Go easy on his Maria, he isn't getting any younger you know!

Next, there were a few too many NMR's this month! Remember, the deadline is always the Saturday immediately before the first Monday of any month. That means the deadline could fall at the end of a month, or at the beginning of the next. The deadline for this issue will fall on the weekend right after New Year's.

Finally, there is a Canadian postal strike. I will be mailing and emailing or faxing game reports to our Canadian players. Any game where a Canadian player does not get orders in for next issue will be held over one month. If that delays a few games, so be it - I'm hoping the strike ends soon and we don't have to worry about that. Anyway, see below for game openings, standby calls, etc.

Game Openings:

Modern Dip: Rules and maps available from me or Andy York. Andy is running this in his ByWAY column. Sign up with him, not me! Signed up: McKinnon, needs 9 more.

Colonial Dip: I'm going to try and fill a new game of this. The only variant that Avalon Hill sells directly. Will use all 3 optional rules, but no Sak land bridge. \$5 gamefee. McHugh signed up, needs 6 more.

Standby players called this issue: Jim O'Kelley as Turkey in Pop Goes the Weasel (Diplomacy 22), Bill McCullam as Austria in Number Please (Diplomacy 24), Tim Lurz as Russia in Pattycake Pattycake (Diplomacy 25), Anyone as France in Three Wavy Lines (Gunboat 12), Anyone as England or Germany in That is a Lie (Gunboat 13), Steven McKinnon as Ethiopia in Why? (African Dip).

Notes to players: _____

The next deadline is:

Saturday January 3, 1998 at 11:00am Central

Uncultured Corner

Here are some more new movie reviews for you. As you can see we managed to get to the theatre quite a bit this month.

Bean - Rowin Atkinson stars in this big-screen debut of his television character, Mr. Bean - an obnoxious, self-centered, clumsy individual with a very limited vocabulary. Doug gave it a 7.03, Mara gave it a 7.5

Starship Troopers - The adaptation of the terrific novel (one of my all-time favorites) is a fun movie by itself, although not the faithful adaptation I was hoping for. Holes in the plot you can drive a plot through, but a good ride anyway. Doug gave it a 7.42, Mara gave it a 5.5.

The Ice Storm - Kevin Kline and Loan Allen star in this study of life and adultery in suburban Connecticut in the 1970's. A bit slow at parts, but interesting. Doug gave it a 6.2, Mara gave it a 4.5.

Mad City - John Travolta is a security guard who takes a group of kids hostage, and Dustin Hoffman is the reporter who happens to be there, and tries to manipulate the story. Nothing new here, skip it. Doug gave it a 5.8, Mara gave it a 6.5.

Alien Resurrection - 4th in the Alien series. Sigourney Weaver is cloned after being dead for 200 years so that the military can breed the Alien species. Fun monsters and blood, but not too much plot. Doug gave it a 6.5, Mara gave it a 7.5.

Critical Care - James Spader stars in this black comedy as an intern who becomes involved with Kyra Sedgwick, the daughter of one of his patients in the critical care ward. Turns out there is a lawsuit brewing over whether to put a feeding tube in. Great fun, Albert Brooks is a riot as a drunk doctor only concerned with who has insurance. Doug gave it a 6.65, Mara gave it a 7.

The Jackal - Bruce Willis is an international terrorist, and Richard Gere is the felon who teams up with the FBI to stop him. I've heard some bad reviews, but we both thought it was fun if a bit obvious. Doug gave it a 6.77, Mara gave it a 6.

The Man Who Knew Too Little - Bill Murray is a dopey American who thinks he's involved in British llike theatre, when really he has stumbled into a bombing plot. The script was weak, but I thought Murray carried the film okay anyway. Doug gave it a 6.7, Mara gave it a 6.5.

The Rainmaker - Francis Ford Coppola's adaptation of the John Grisham novel. A young lawyer (Matt Damon) sues an insurance company who won't pay for a bone marrow transplant. You know where this movie is going from scene 1, but performances by Danny Devito, Mickey Rourke and John Voight make it more entertaining. Doug gave it a 6.83, Mara gave it a 6.5.

Plan B - Five friends, all reaching their 30's, have to come to grips with the fact that their lives are not turning out the way they planned. John Cryer stars in this film which was made for only \$300,000 but looks good and is better than a lot of the stuff out there. Doug gave it a 7.03, Mara gave it as 6.5.

ByWAY #10

by W Andrew York

THOUGHTS

Yesterday, I travelled to visit friends who live in San Angelo and, then, came back to San Antonio. For those of you who don't know Texas, San Angelo is a 3 1/2 hour drive generally northwest of San Antonio. While driving, a number of things came to mind about Texas and life.

The first is the varied geography of the State. I left the eighth largest city in the US (though it doesn't have the pretentiousness of a Chicago or a New York) on I10W from Loop 1604. Within fifteen minutes I was in the Hill Country, with urbanization left behind.

Along I10, there are a few towns, such as Boerne (pronounced "bernie"), hugging the highway. However, the sparsely settled hills and countryside become common, with the pressure of city life fading.

I turned off the interstate at the Comfort exit, taking 87 northward. Now, deeper into the hills, the colours on the trees start showing. In San Antonio, it is still mostly green. However, here there was a riot of colour along the sides of the road and extending across the undeveloped land. The road climbed, twisted and turned as I made my way to Fredericksburg.

The speed dropped as I enter the city limits and stores, houses and other buildings replaced the fields and trees.

Fredericksburg is one of the towns settled by German immigrants and is the home of Admiral Nimitz - a hero of World War II. Alongside the large museum, there are many small stores selling German crafts, sausage, antiques and, at this time of year, plenty of Christmas gifts and ornaments.

The pace of the town is in stark contrast to the frenzied shopping at a mall. Couples strolled arm in arm along the street, children played on the grass in front of the courthouse and storekeepers kept displays on the sidewalk - unattended and with little worry of the shoplifter. Passing through town, I again picked up the pace enroute to Mason, the next "big town" along the way.

Traffic on 87 was much less than in San Antonio or on the interstate, and the drivers were much more courteous. This is something I've always noted when I drive the backroads. If a faster moving vehicle comes up behind a slower one, the slower one moves to the shoulder (we have wide shoulders) as soon as it is safe to allow the person to pass. As you pass, it is common to wave and smile; or, if after dark, blink your lights. You don't see this on the streets of Los Angeles.

Mason is one of the many towns in Texas that still have the courthouse square. Across the streets that surround it are storefronts and the center of the community. Christmas displays were being erected and people wandered along, gazing into the stores.

From Mason, the land starts to flatten as you leave the Hill Country. Ranches, with wide spreads, become common with main entrances spanned by arches marking it. The land, criss-crossed by arroyos, is spotted with brush, mesquite and, of course, longhorn cattle.

Brady, the "heart" of Texas, always brings strong memories to me. One of my best friends grew up knowing a Texas Ranger very well, he considered him family. Unfortunately, while saving a child who was kidnapped, he was killed by the kidnapper - the last Ranger to die in the line of duty. He had lived, and was buried, in Brady. The service was the most moving one I have ever attended and representatives from police agencies all over Texas. The National Guard provided traffic control for the procession. I can't drive through the town without thinking about it, or saying a prayer.

After Brady, you drive through wide open land where you can see for miles. The closer you get to San Angelo, cotton becomes King for farmers. Oil wells begin to sprout as well, including in the small town of Wall, an oil pump on the high school's campus sandwiched between athletic fields.

Arriving in San Angelo, I was fortunate to spend time with my friend and his family (we've known each other since grade school). To add to the enjoyment, his mother and her husband were down from Michigan. We chatted, did a bit of shopping and basically enjoyed each others company; which we do to little of.

I think spending time around Thanksgiving (and Christmas!) with friends and family makes the holiday that much more special and memorable. I was able to enjoy Thanksgiving Day (the day before I went to San Angelo) with two other friends, from my Air Force days, and their family. A superlative dinner, plenty of great conversation and a very relaxing and enjoyable day.

On my way back from San Angelo, I enjoyed the same courteousness from the other drivers on the road. It was after dark and the stars glimmered in the sky. Away from the lights of a city, in a cloudless panorama, you can see so far out into the universe - it can take your breath away. In fact, I pulled off the side of the road for a bit and just gazed upwards. Then, as San Antonio approached on the horizon, the glow of the City's lights washed the dimmer stars away.

=====

And now for something different....

I've tried this recipe once, and thoroughly enjoyed it (as did the friends I shared it with). I'm going to write it down as it was given to me; however, I plan on tinkering with it - adding onions or mushrooms. The comments in the parenthesis were on the actual recipe - from one of my history professors (he's a native Italian). My comments are in brackets.

Pasta with Olives and Capers

(Or, "Pasta Alla Puttanesca," Whore-style Pasta, apparently because it's prepared very quickly --- Honest!)

Ingredients

1. Fresh Ripe or Canned Peeled Tomatoes, preferably Progresso, about 2 cans [I used DelMonte Fresh Cut Diced Tomatoes, one with Basil, Garlic & Oregano, the other with Garlic & Onion. However, there didn't seem to be enough sauce, so next time I'm adding a third can]
2. Olive Oil
3. Black Olives (recommend Paletta's black, without spices, about 1/2 lbs; do not use store brands like Lindsay's) [I used a can of generic olives - and there were plenty for the recipe! Next time I might halve them as they are large]
4. Capers (I get them at Albertson's because they're the best deal; I never use the "fancy" or "imported" ones); about 1 jar [one SMALL jar]
5. Anchovy Fillets: boneless, about three [I used half of a small tin]
6. Oregano, a pinch or two
7. Garlic, a couple of cloves
8. One or two chili peppers (optional) [I didn't use them]

Preparation

1. In a skillet, saute the garlic (and chili peppers, if wanted) in olive oil over a medium flame
2. When oil is hot, add the anchovy fillets and stir gently, until they disintegrate
3. Add the oregano and stir
4. When the garlic is golden (but not burned), add the tomatoes, which you have processed or cut up in little bits beforehand, and let cook on a medium flame (not too high) for about 15 minutes, to taste, stirring from time to time
5. Add the olives and capers, both of which you have simply rinsed beforehand
6. Let cook about 10-15 minutes, to taste and serve preferably over 1 lb cooked linguine

ENJOY!!!



College Football Ratings

by Robert Stimmel
After November 15, 1997



- 1) Florida St. 850.98
- 2) Michigan U. 838.17
- 3) Nebraska 807.18
- 4) Tennessee 801.80
- 5) Florida U. 781.37
- 6) Ohio St. 776.71
- 7) UCLA 747.08
- 8) Arizona St. 731.07
- 9) Kansas St. 722.00
- 10) Pa. State 711.12
- 11) Wash. U. 691.31
- 12) N. Car. U. 689.55
- 13) Auburn 652.84
- 14) Georgia U. 640.76
- 15) Colo. St. 614.34
- 16) La. State 596.30
- 17) Wash. St. 586.70
- 18) Texas A&M 576.41
- 19) S. Miss. 576.15
- 20) Syracuse 572.07
- 21) S. Calif. 564.41
- 22) Miss. St. 560.36
- 23) Iowa U. 552.96
- 24) N. Dame 552.50
- 25) Va. Tech 551.74
- 26) Texas Tech 536.86
- 27) Marshall 530.45
- 28) Missouri 527.50
- 29) Mich. St. 524.05
- 30) West Va. 520.35
- 31) Wisconsin 519.09
- 32) Miss. U. 518.63
- 33) Miami, OH 515.46
- 34) Colorado U 507.13
- 35) Purdue 505.19
- 36) S. Carolina 488.40
- 37) Oregon U. 482.80
- 38) Virginia 481.67
- 39) Arizona U. 478.74
- 40) Ga. Tech 473.94
- 41) Air Force 472.36
- 42) Okla. St. 468.75
- 43) Clemson 468.66
- 44) N. Car. St. 464.85
- 45) NWestern 457.06

- 46) N. Mex. U. 455.66
- 47) Miami Fl. 451.35
- 48) Utah St. 450.03
- 49) Wyoming 437.97
- 50) Alabama 436.13
- 51) La. Tech 433.05
- 52) Toledo 429.99
- 53) Kentucky 428.05
- 54) Navy 423.81
- 55) S. Method. 416.77
- 56) Stanford 395.01
- 57) B. Young 389.43
- 58) Cincinnati 381.86
- 59) E. Carolina 376.03
- 60) Rice 373.08
- 61) Tulane 372.56
- 62) California 368.74
- 63) S. Diego St. 358.12
- 64) Wake Forst 354.85
- 65) Arkansas 348.39
- 66) Texas U. 346.85
- 67) Nevada U. 324.05
- 68) Ohio U. 323.16
- 69) Pittsburgh 322.91
- 70) Minnesota 320.53
- 71) Utah U. 319.11
- 72) W. Mich. 304.65
- 73) Fresno St. 297.13
- 74) C. Florida 296.78
- 75) Okls. U. 277.61
- 76) Kansas U. 276.98
- 77) Ball St. 270.77
- 78) Vanderbilt 261.59
- 79) Indiana 253.77
- 80) Boston C. 248.06
- 81) Oregon St. 244.53
- 82) Memphis 239.13
- 83) Duke 228.13
- 84) Houston 200.26
- 85) Baylor 198.59
- 86) Ala-Birm. 181.67
- 87) Army 174.72
- 88) Maryland 173.56
- 89) Temple 168.37
- 90) UT el Paso 167.63

- 91) UNLV 166.24
- 92) Idaho U. 154.02
- 93) E. Mich. 152.38
- 94) Tulsa 150.54
- 95) San Jose St. 150.45
- 96) Iowa St. 146.25
- 97) Boise St. 131.74
- 98) Illinois 128.45
- 99) NE La. 108.15
- 100) B. Green 101.58
- 101) Hawaii 92.82
- 102) Louisville 83.09
- 103) Akron 71.27
- 104) Kent 67.12
- 105) E. Wash. 65.97
- 106) N. Texas 37.80
- 107) Texas Chr. 27.28
- 108) N. Illinois 2.21



Newsletter #3 ON World DipCon VIII

***DixieCon XII
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
May 22-24, 1998***

The Carolina Amateur Diplomats will again host World Dipcon in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in conjunction with the regional gaming convention DixieCon. World DipCon is the World Diplomacy Championships, a yearly tournament which rotates around the world. DixieCon was the World DipCon site in 1990, when the event drew the largest field of Diplomacy players in North America since 1983. It also hosted the North American Championships in 1994. This year's event promises to be another outstanding Diplomacy tournament as participants from around North America and beyond travel to Dixie for the chance to become the 1998 World Diplomacy Champion.

This is the third in a series of Newsletters intended to keep Dipdom informed of the latest news about the 1998 World Dipcon event. If you are a publisher or webmaster, please circulate the info. If you are a prospective attendee, contact David Hood to get on the mailing list. If you have opinions or input regarding any aspect of the event, please submit such items to David for inclusion in the next edition.

Below is a list of DixieCon/World DipCon/DipCon staff members, and the functions they are likely to perform. Early registrants will receive future DipCon Newsletters as they are published, with information such as tournament schedules, expected participants, scoring systems, travel aids, and other news on the upcoming event. **Contact David Hood now to put your name on that mailing list.**

Tournament Staff

DipCon Committee

David Hood	Chairman and Tournament Director
Michael Lowrey	Vice-Chairman and Assistant GM
Dan Mathias	1830 GM and Assistant Diplomacy GM

DixieCon XII Committee

Steve Nicewarner	Chairman and Non-Diplomacy Events Director
Steve Koehler	Diplomacy Variant Events GM
Hal Hood	Miniatures Events Coordinator
Steve Cooley	Publicity/West Coast
Manus Hand	Publicity/Email
Larry Peery	Publicity/International
Jim Burgess	Publicity/Northeast
Jamie McQuinn	Publicity/Midwest and Website operator
Per Westling	World DipCon Liasion and Special Assistant

Don't Miss This Exciting Event!

Contact David Hood at 2905 20th Street NE, Hickory, NC, 28601
david_hood@W3link.com

New website: <http://people.delphi.com/jmcquinn.wdc8.htm>

•**Tournament Highlights:** The Diplomacy event is a best two-out-of-four affair, with rounds on Friday night, two on Saturday, and one on Sunday. There is also a team event, as described below. There are no time limits on the games except for the Sunday round, which ends sometime between 4:00 and 6:00. Players will have to sign up for a round the night before, the morning before a night round, or in advance for Round One. There are also tournaments in games like Titan, History of the World, Advanced Civilization, 1830, RoboRally, Acquire, Magic and the like that will be played throughout the weekend. Prizes for the various tournaments will consist of merchandise certificates, games, plaques, trophies and ribbons.

•**Why do players have to preregister for each round?** The main reason for this is that Dixiecon is somewhat unique in its procedure for setting up the boards in each round. For Round One, players will have the pleasure of playing a country that they have not played before at DixieCon, or at least not lately. They also will not typically play with their family members, roommates, best friends, and carpool-mates unless there is no choice. Players who know each other well will be placed on different boards, or at least on different ends of the same board. Every attempt is made to make sure you do not meet the same players in Round Two that you did in Round One, although by the fourth round you may have to play again with someone, albeit on the other end of the gameboard. You will definitely not play the same country twice. As you can see, this process becomes very difficult as the tournament progresses, so a couple of hours or more of time may be required. Why do we go to all that effort? Tournament Diplomacy can be ruined by having brothers or roommates on the same board, by having to play Austria to an Italian player you just stabbed in the previous game, by being stuck playing Germany two or three times, etc. Once you play under this system, we think you will prefer it to a more random method. In addition, you get to meet the maximum number of people this way, which is one goal of this whole Hobby.

•**What will be the scoring system?** Hasn't been finalized yet. Dixiecon has used several systems in the past, including those which reward wins and draws only and those which also give points for "places" among those who survived but were not in the draw. Supply centers will yield points, but not nearly as many as improving your position in the draw or win. Draws will definitely not be DIAS (Draw Includes All Survivors), and proposals to end the game will require a unanimous vote by secret ballot. Please email Michael Lowrey if you want to give him suggestions about the scoring system: mlowrey@charlotte.ifi.net.

•**Team Event:** The team tournament will be held in conjunction with Round Two. This time we will have teams of three players each, with the team score as the average of all three players' results. Teams should be formed around zines, clubs, friendships, nations or states, mutual admiration, or any other basis. Competition for the best players will be fierce - so start putting teams together now!

•**Who all is coming?** If past events are any guide, it will be close to one hundred Dippers from 4-5 countries and 20 U.S. states. There are already some nuts who have preregistered, or more rational people who have simply said to advertise they were coming. These include Ted Miller, Michael McCabe, Melinda Holley, Manus Hand, Bruce Reiff, Cal White, Pitt Crandlemire, Simon Szykman, Buz Eddy, Edi Birsan, and most of the folks on the tournament staff list. We also have a **Dipdom's Most Wanted List** for famous (or infamous) Hobbyists whom we would absolutely love to see - help us convince the following to do the right thing: Doug Kent, Jim Burgess, Ken Peel, Eric Brosius, Andy York, Paul Milewski, Thomas Franke, Bruno-Andre Girandon, Iain Bowen, Gary Behnen, John Caruso, Vince Lutterbie, Jack McHugh, Brad Wilson, Mark Fassio, and Pete Sullivan. This will be the must-attend event of 1998 - don't you be the one who misses out.

THE CAROLINA AMATEUR DIPLOMATS PRESENT

WORLD DIPCON 8

DIPCON 31

The North American and World Diplomacy Championships

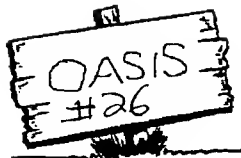
The University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC

May 22-24, 1998
(Memorial Day Weekend)

This three-day event draws the best players from North America and beyond for a four-round Diplomacy tournament and other competitions. On Friday night, May 22, players congregate for the first Diplomacy round and other events. During the Saturday night round, Con participants can enter the Variant Diplomacy tournament for a touch of variety. Tournaments in other games such as Titan, Miniatures, History of the World, Advanced Civilization and 1830 will proceed throughout the weekend also. The host convention, Dixiecon, was the site of the 1990 World Diplomacy Championships and 1994 DipCon.

Features Include: Four Round Diplomacy Tournament
Plaques and Other Prizes
Wargames, Rail Games and Miniatures Events
Inexpensive Campus Housing
Experienced Convention Staff

Contact: David Hood, 2905 20th Street NE, Hickory NC 28601, David_Hood@w3link.com



Well, you've done it! Congratulations! You've made it to Oasis, the best part of Maniac's Paradise. Oasis, a subzine by Mara Kent, appears every month in Maniac's Paradise.

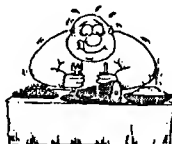
Gossip Shop



The Gossip Shop was built on July 28, 1995 at 8:55pm Central. It's purpose here is to let Mara blow off steam at anyone she feels like. This can be anyone in the Zine hobby or not. It can be for things previous to the erection of the shop as well.

To Jack and Maria: Congratulations on getting married - your gifts (three kittens) are on its way to you Fedex. Hopefully they won't poop before they get out of the box!

Recipe of the Month



Title: No-Knead Cheddar Rolls

Servings: 8

3 c Flour, unbleached
1 pk Yeast
1 ts Salt

1 c Cheddar, grated
1/4 c Butter
3 tb Sugar

3/4 c Milk
3 tb more Butter
1/2c Water

TOP OF ROLLS:

1 tb Milk

1 ea Egg yolk

Place the grated cheese in a small bowl and cover to prevent drying then set aside. Combine 1 1/2 cups unsifted flour, yeast, sugar, and salt in a large mixer bowl, blending thoroughly. Measure 3/4 c of milk, water, and 1/4 c butter into a saucepan and heat until the liquids are warm, 115 to 120 degrees F.. Gradually add the liquids to the dry ingredients in the mixer bowl, beating for 2 minutes at medium speed of the electric mixer, scraping the bowl occasionally. Add and beat in 1 cup of unsifted flour at high speed. Beat for 2 minutes, scraping the bowl occasionally. Mix in enough additional flour (1/2 to 1 cup unsifted) to make a soft dough. (Dough will be slightly sticky.) Put the dough into a greased deep bowl. Cover with waxed paper and a clean towel and let stand in a warm place until the dough has doubled, 45 to 60 minutes. Generously grease several baking sheets. Melt the 3 tb butter and set aside. Punch the dough down with a fist and turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Divide the dough into two equal portions. Set one portion aside. Roll the dough into a rectangle 16 X 8-inches. Brush with about one-half of the melted butter. Sprinkle with about one half of the grated cheddar cheese. Cut crosswise into 8 equal portions. Cut into halves lengthwise. Fold each strip into thirds, lapping each side portion over the center

third. Place the rolls on a baking sheet. Repeat for the other half of the dough. Beat the egg yolk with the tbs of milk, slightly. Brush the tops of the rolls with the egg yolk mixture. Let rise until doubled, about 30 minutes. Bake at 425 degrees F. for about 8 minutes or until rolls are golden brown. Serve rolls hot.

Fictionary Dictionary

Rules: There are two parts to this game. First, I will supply you all with one word. You must submit your own definition of the word. You should make it up, but make sure it seems real. That is important for the second part of the game. The second part of the game (the next month) I will list all definitions submitted to me including the real definition. Without looking it up, everyone must send in their vote for which is the correct definition. SCORING: You score one point if you guessed the correct definition, and you score three points if someone guesses that your definition was the correct one. The first person to get to 20 points wins a FREE issue of MP and then the game will restart again.

Clarification: If a player sends in the correct definition as his made up definition, that answer will not be printed and that player will not get points for when on the following turn other players choose it. If you know the word, it is still your task to come up with a **false** definition that others might choose.

Last Month's Word: RIPRAP

REAL Definition: 7) A foundation or wall made of broken stones thrown together. (Picked: 4)

Total Scores: Bill McCullam - 5, Stephen Dorneman - 2, Andy York - 9, Brendan Whyte - 15, Pitt Crandlemire - 11, Robert Stimmel - 7, John Schuktz - 3.

Definitions Picked:

3) A piece of lumber from redwood trees. (Given by Robert Stimmel, Picked: 1)

5) A corrupted English dialect spoken on three South Sea islands occupied by Americans during the Second World War. (Given by Andy York, Picked: 2)

6) An iron bar with one end bent like a rake. (Given by: Pitt Crandlemire, Picked: 1)

This Month's Word: CATKIN

Without cheating, choose whichever one of the following definitions you think is correct. Don't forget to send in a definition for the next month's word too!

Players: Andrew York, John Schultz, Robert Stimmel, James Hardy, Pitt Crandlemire, Ward Narhi, Bill McCullam (who forgot to give a definition).

1) A drooping deciduous scaly spike of unisexual flowers without petals.

2) Name for any Hungarian gypsy song.

3) An artificial fabric.

4) Animal skin, such as leather, worn loosely as an outer garment in Ireland during the Middle Ages.

5) A hipboot popular in seventeenth century Europe characterized by a rather loose top.

6) A high tensile man-made fiber.

7) A thin dagger with a tozenge-shaped blade.

8) A knot forming a loop that does not slip.

Next Month's Word: REMUDA

Game Openings:

Fictionary Dictionary - Just send guesses in when you want to play. Any number of people can play. Now is the perfect time to start - you can win a free issue!

Send all orders and letters on separate pages from stuff you send to Doug. You can send me email through him too, but send it in separate messages!

DEADLINE FOR ALL OASIS GAMES: Friday, January 2, 1998

BY THE WATERS OF BABYLON

Issue 45

This subzine is published by Alan Levin, 8538 Lotus #416, Skokie, IL, 60077.

* * * * *

"Book her Danno. Murder one."

A German detective addicted to American TV, making an arrest, on *Millennium*

* * * * *

HAILING FREQUENCIES OPEN

STEVEN MCKINNON [Troy, NY]: Saw Marjorie Monaghan on *JAG*. For about 3.2 seconds. What a waste. And whoever the cutie is who plays the chick lawyer on *JAG*, let's face it, there are no babes I like that 1) in the Armed Forces, 2) at that rank, 3) who are lawyers. Each concept adds an order of magnitude to the improbability

Re: Langer on BS. She's getting WAY TOO LITTLE screen time.

How can you tell me, in a letter, that Tracy Lords new show, *Profiler*, isn't sci-fi, then not comment on use of Andrea Parker as a sci-fi babe in the anonymous list? I'd have included her in mine if I thought *Pretender* qualified. [[The Prime Directive has less bearing on letters than top ten lists.]] As an aside Pamela (runner-up) Gidley is now on *Pretender* with some weird accent. I'm enjoying the sparring between their characters, especially Ms Parker's comment "Little blondie's gonna bust a g-string ..."

Stacy Hajduk was also in *Kindred: The Embraced*. Renee O'Connor? Um. Maybe if she stopped sucking in her stomach. Ms Callendar is played by Robia La Morte (the 'Dead' Nice?!) Yvonne Craig was also Batgirl on the original TV series Batman. Interesting to note that anonymous and myself both included Rigg and Gellar.

Kari Wuhrer is a probably a distant 3rd in reasons for Sci-Fi-s rescue [[of *Sliders*]] 1) The producers pledged to make *Sliders* with a far-reduced budget, cutting new sets and F/X. 2) Even moving to cable, even if it loses half its viewers, *Sliders* will be the largest show on Sci-Fi Channel.

Tydings: never heard of her. Visitor: if she were flat-chested, just how remarkable would the Intendant be? Angel: never liked her, never will. Re: Farrell: a good choice. I erred in leaving her off my runner-up list.

HEY!, get off your lazy butt and write some *DS9* reviews I've been telling my sister I'd send her your stuff but WHERE IS IT!? Don't tell me you're actually letting real-life intrude.!? [[Look for a complete set of reviews of this season's *DS9* episodes in the next issue.]]

* * * * *

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

Quiz 33

Motherless Beasts and Other Villains

Participants:

Pitt Crandlemire (PC), Kerry Kaszak (KK), Steven McKinnon (SM), W. Andrew York (WAY)

1. ~~X-Files~~ - D. Krycek
PC: X-Files - D. Krycek [[Correct]]
SM: X-Files - D. Krycek [[Correct]]

KK: X-Files - D. Krycek [[Correct]]
WAY: X-Files - D. Krycek [[Correct]]

2. Space: Above and Beyond- B. Chigs
PC: Space: A & B-B. Chigs [[Correct]]
SM: Space: A & B- B. Chigs [[Correct]]

KK: Space: A & B - B. Chigs [[Correct]]
WAY: Space: A & B - B Chigs [[Correct]]

3. Sliders - C. Kromaggs
PC: Sliders - C. Kromaggs [[Correct]]
SM: Sliders - C. Kromaggs [[Correct]]

KK: Sliders - C. Kromaggs [[Correct]]
WAY: Sliders - C. Kromaggs [[Correct]]

4. Roar - E. Longinus
PC: Roar - E. Longinus [[Correct]]
SM: Roar - E. Longinus [[Correct]]

KK: Roar - E. Longinus [[Correct]]
WAY: Roar - E. Longinus [[Correct]]

5. Kolchak the Night Stalker - G. Jack the Ripper
PC: Kolchak - G. The Ripper [[Correct]]
SM: Kolchak - G. The Ripper [[Correct]]

KK: Kolchak - G. The Ripper [[Correct]]
WAY: Kolchak -G.The Ripper [[Correct]]

6. Dr Who - H. Sontarrans
PC: Dr Who - H. Sontarrans [[Correct]]
SM: Dr Who - H. Sontarrans [[Correct]]

KK: Dr Who - H. Sontarrans [[Correct]]
WAY: Dr Who - H. Sontarrans [[Correct]]

7. Blake's 7 - F. Servalan
PC: Blake's 7 - F. Servalan [[Correct]]
SM: Blake's 7 - F. Servalan [[Correct]]

KK: Blake's 7 - F. Servalan [[Correct]]
WAY: Blake's 7 - F. Servalan [[Correct]]

8. Babylon 5 - A. Cartagia
PC: Babylon 5 - A. Cartagia [[Correct]]
SM: Babylon 5 - A. Cartagia [[Correct]]

KK: Babylon 5 - A. Cartagia [[Correct]]
WAY: Babylon 5-A Cartagia [Correct]]

Scores:

Pitt Crandlemire: 8 points
Kerry Kaszak: 8 points
Steven McKinnon: 8 points
W. Andrew York: 8 points

* * *

Quiz 34

BY ANY OTHE NAME

1. Rene Auberjonois
2. Megan Gallagher
3. Lance Henriksen
4. Darren McGavin
5. Robert Picardo
6. Brent Spiner
7. Patrick Stewart
8. Nana Visitor

- A. Working Girl
- B. The Wonder Years
- C. Turk 182
- D. Night Court
- E. Near Dark
- F. Lady Jane
- G. Hills Street Blues
- H. Benson

The deadline for this quiz is one week before Doug's deadline for his games.

On the Shores of Loch Shiel #24

Sci-fi Reviews by Steven McKinnon
1626 5th Ave, Troy, NY 12180 - Seska@ix.netcom.com
www.geocities.com/Area51/Corridor/6466

By Any Other Name

Clancy Brown - was the villainous Kurgan in Highlander and was terribly miscast as Drill Sergeant Zim in Starship Troopers. He can be seen in a couple of places. He is guest-starring in a recurring role on "ER" as an administrative consultant, Ellis West. And he has a part in the new Robin Williams film Flubber, a remake of The Absentminded Professor.

Elizabeth Hurley - will make it to the screen in a couple of genre parts. She has a part in the film version of classic tv show My Favourite Martian. This, combined with her performance in Austin Powers, has earned her the lead role in Tomb Raider. This is the screen version of the Video/PC game that has sold over 3 million copies to date. Tomb Raider 2, the sequel game, will be out by Christmas.

Dina Meyer - was surprisingly good as Dizzy Flores in Starship Troopers. She appeared on Jay Leno on November 13th in a terrible bit of schtick that reminded me why I don't watch late-night tv. She and Leno recreated a classroom scene from the film and pulled entrails out of a special effects bug. They found a can of Spam and Leno's belt in there. Yay. Meyer, though, looked phenomenal, with long, straight blonde hair and a dress that was dark, velvet and very tight.

Ethan Hawke - played Vincent, the faith-born human protagonist in Gattaca. He has published a novel, called The Hottest State. It follows an actor searching for 'true love' in the modern world. Not well-publicised, the book did make the top ten list of sales in NYC.

Martha Hackett - is Loch Shiel's favourite Voyager alumna. She appeared in another play at the Pacific Resident Theatre ensemble throughout November. She appeared in the play Table Manners four days a week. The

Martha Hackett Fan Club organised a trip to see her, about 10 members made it and Hackett was quite pleased.

Brooklyn South - yep, it's time for the monthly roundup of this cop show's connection to sci fi. This week we have two lovely young ladies to consider. **Yancy Butler** plays officer Ann-Marie Kersey, whose fiancé was gunned down in the first episode. Butler played Sgt. Eve Edison, an artificial police officer, in the 1992 series Mann and Machine. In this show her normal everyday sergeant-wear was a skintight white outfit reminiscent of that worn by Seven of Nine.

A recent story arc introduced a character played by **Brigid Brannagh**. This is an alias for actress Brigid Walsh, one of my top ten sci-fi babes runners-up. Walsh/Brannagh plays a waitress, sister of a character linked to a cop whose sister is played by... A.J. Langer. Walsh/Brannagh also appeared this past Summer in Roar, which I ignored, and this past January in Sliders, which I ignored. Both of these were guest appearances.

Sci-Fi Channel - performs one interesting service. Every morning at 11 ET they run the Sci Fi Series Collection. This is essentially just reruns of old, failed series. You can see any old sci-fi show that never made it into syndication. Running in mid-November was Space Rangers, a 1993 series involving a motley group of Space Cops. One of the lead characters was played by top ten sci fi babe Marjorie Monaghan. Also, one guest star was none other than **B5** lead Claudia Christian.

Voyager

"Scientific Method"

One of my favourite hard rock bands is Tool. Their videos often feature aliens or mutated humans. "Prison Sex" involves

stop-motion aliens, sightless, limbless or mouthless creatures isolated in cells. "Stinkfist" features humanoids of stone yearning so to be flesh that they scientifically reasearch methods of transformation. The liner notes of the album Undertow include some interesting pictures. The four band members are shown with mediaeval-looking devices attached to their heads, sort of a cross between Inquisition tools and alien probes from an abduction. When Seven of Nine's recalibrated visual scanner first sees devices attached to *Voyager* crew in this episode, it was of these devices that I first thought.

Paris and Torres sneak a kiss while on duty, and appear to be scanned by something unknown. Captain Janeway is experiencing chronic headaches despite the Holodoc's treatments. Then, Chakotay suddenly ages and Neelix' appearance alters to mimic a distant alien ancestor. The Holodoc discovers that their DNA has been selectively hyper-stimulated. When he and Torres discover micro-molecular markings on crew DNA, and that these marks are transmitting a signal, Torres is incapacitated and the Holodoc vanishes.

The Holodoc has transferred himself to the holodeck, from which he secretly contacts Seven of Nine. Together they discover aliens, slightly out of phase and therefore invisible, on *Voyager* and experimenting on the crew. Seven renders one visible but Janeway cannot convince her to cease the medical experiments. Janeway dives *Voyager* in a suicidal flight between binary pulsars. The aliens flee, and, having survived the flight, the Holodoc removes the alien devices from the crew and reverses their work.

There are all sorts of wonderful little character bits in this episode, and a number of funny moments. The best:

When Seven of Nine does unauthorised engineering work Torres bawls her out just as Janeway and Chakotay did to Torres when she took over Engineering in "**Parallax**". Paris sneaks away from medical duty, at one point claiming that he's been so busy. The Holodoc slowly looks around a barren, silent sick bay. When Paris leaves sick bay a

young female extra says, "Sir," to him and he looks after her. Such interaction between major characters and extras is rare on the show, and one would expect it in real life. It was a nice touch.

Janeway's massage was funny, as the 'doc gets a bit carried away. Sure, I enjoyed seeing her in a towel. And bid fond farewell to her clasped-ponytail, as she changes hairstyle beginning with the "**Year of Hell**" episodes. While looking at his new self in a mirror, Neelix does a close inspection of his tongue. Then, referring to his inherited DNA which has been stimulated, "*Too bad my great grandfather wasn't a little better looking.*" He and Chakotay do battle, trying to outdo one another with the detriments of their conditions. Chakotay is arthritic, bald, half-blind and can't walk. Neelix has dilated pupils, no taste buds and new, foul-smelling sweat glands.

The funniest moment came when a perturbed Janeway, her head probed by alien devices that give her headaches and pump her full of dopamine, tells Tuvok to straighten out the department heads. In response to her unreasonable harshness he asks, "*Shall I flog them, as well?*"

Somewhere in this episode was a moral lesson about medical experimentation. I accept that such work as done in POW camps, concentration camps and famous cases like Miss Evers' Boys mirror the points it made. But, if this episode was attempting to do the same with regard to animals (simians, dogs, hamsters, etc.) then it falls on my deaf ears. And, I found the Paris-Torres scenes interesting only with regard to their embarrassing discovery in a clutch by Tuvok.

I thoroughly enjoyed the character stuff and the humour, once more courtesy of Lisa Klink. But his episode suffers a mandatory reduction in grade for using the lame staple of **TNG**: the 'out-of-phase' plot device.

Therefore, **McKinnon Grade: B+**

"The Year of Hell"

The year that never happened.

McKinnon Grade: B-

Movie Reviews

Gattaca

[Warning: this film made only \$4.3 M in its first week. I suspect, by the time this review appears, that everyone who's going to see this film will have done so. I reveal all the film's secrets here. You are warned.]

My sci-fi xenophobia is well-documented. It stems mostly from the inadequacies of the writers. All too often they use humans as the foil to an enlightened, wonderful alien race, key to which is the use of humans as lying, greedy, cruel bad guys. What takes skill is to demonstrate the best and worst in humans using only humans as a reference. Gattaca does this exceptionally. Using a low-tech approach (this film could be performed on stage) Gattaca shows how essential to us all are our intangible qualities. And it is a remarkably upbeat film considering its dour, sober imagery and scenes of murder, discrimination and suicide.

Vincent is a 'faith birth', a 'God child'. That is: he has been conceived by sexual intercourse. He therefore has all the random, and therefore inferior DNA of anyone not genetically enhanced in vitro. His brother, Anton, is genetically designed: smarter, healthier and harder than Vincent, who also has a bad heart.

Shortly after he finally beats Anton in a physical test for the first time ever Vincent leaves home. As a genetic inferior he can only take menial work, until through shady connections he finds Jerome. Jerome is outstanding even by genetically-enhanced standards. But Jerome is paralysed from the waist down. After 'only' coming in second in a sports event he unsuccessfully bid at suicide. He provides the genetic samples for Vincent, allowing him to assume Jerome's I.D. and succeed professionally. They share the monetary rewards.

Vincent is days away from a lifelong dream: crewman on a manned starflight, when a man is murdered at Gattaca, the place where Vincent works. A stray hair from Vincent's head makes him a suspect. Hiding

behind his assumption of Jerome's persona Vincent is able to avoid police custody until the real killer is found. And, as Vincent achieves that which is his dream, those who have helped him also gain from it.

Gattaca's world is supposed to be a better one than ours. But the lesson learned is this: no matter how you raise the bar on achievement, everyone is still positioned relatively, and everyone still suffers inadequacy and insecurities. Vincent, with no genetic enhancement, is at the bottom, a second class citizen. Jerome, supernaturally gifted with his DNA sequence, cannot handle defeat, and falls to self-pity, snobbery and criminality. The Mission Director, with violence bred out of his genes, kills for an emotion, his beloved space programme. Irene, intelligent and beautiful, takes daily medicine for a heart defect we would think trivial even now. It is a constant reminder to her of her 'inferiority'. The company doctor is failed by his science. His genetically designed daughter has failed to live up to her designer's hopes, and her future is uncertain. And Anton, Vincent's brother, can no longer defeat Vincent, either physically or at love, with Irene the prize.

Through their interaction in this film all these characters benefit, though not by genetic design. They all achieve through the intangible, the unfabricable. Anton, who saw his brother leave and his parents die, regains his lost brother. The doctor takes pleasure bucking a system that damns his daughter, and helps Vincent deceive. Irene, searching for the perfect man to compliment her imperfections, finds him where she least expects, in the imperfect, **best** man, Vincent. The director gets his mission to the stars by murdering the only roadblock. Jerome achieves perfection vicariously. As Vincent succeeds with his genetic I.D. Jerome sloughs off his viler traits to become generous, self-sacrificial and at peace through the fires of suicide. Vincent, the flawed one, demonstrates a quality of work better even than his genetic resume, and gains the stars his DNA said he'd never reach. (The flames of Jerome's pyre and those of Vincent's booster rockets become one in a nice sequence.) And most human of

all, every character is a sinner, every character is sinned against. Noone is innocent.

The pace of the film is slow. I would have cut the scenes of Vincent's youth. Comparisons to Anton and repetition of Vincent's poor physical makeup were unnecessary and added to the film's lethargy early on. Such screen time could have been given to developing Irene. So weak is her character that we are force-fed her motives by Vincent's line, "*You're so obsessed with perfection that you see imperfection in everything.*" The point at which she realises Vincent's true identity was unclear. Also unclear until late is Anton's adult identity. I think we were supposed to have it figured out early, but the similar clothing and grooming of many characters will confuse unwary viewers.

As is usual, though, the film's best aspects for me were those off the beaten path of popular taste and sentiment. The production design is very low tech. As Brazil clad all in trenchcoat and fedora, Gattaca provides a severe, black conservatism to clothing. Uma Thurman, as Irene, is stately and cool in her outfits. Though she is blonde here rather than the more attractive black of Pulp Fiction, she is far sexier in Edwardian black than any Playboy bunny in lingerie.

The film is all greys and blacks. The sunlight and colour are sepia-touched, muted like a 1950s print ad in Time or Life magazines.

The film's music is wonderful. From the opening credits the score bears an aura of frustration and desperation, a yearning mirrored in Vincent's ache to prove himself as capable as anyone assumed superior to him from birth.

I commend Columbia/SONY Pictures. They must have known this film was a very long shot to make money. Its release was probably paid for with the potential earnings of Starship Troopers. And I commend Andrew Niccol for writing and directing a film that so gloomily and pessimistically demonstrates the best qualities of humanity. A little less flashback and a little more Irene would have earned a +.

McKinnon Grade: A

Starship Troopers

In Paul Verhoeven's film Robocop a rival automaton, ED209, is designed. In its introductory scene the ED209 goes very wrong. It machineguns a young executive, riddling him with bullets. Rumour has it that Verhoeven wanted, through multiple camera angles, slow motion, loops, etc., to drag this violent scene out to a Peckinpahian 2 minutes. 15 seconds was plenty. In Starship Troopers, a return to sci-fi for Verhoeven after Basic Instinct and Showgirls, the Ultra Violence is back.

Johnny Rico, hoping to impress his high school sweetie, Carmen Ibañez, joins the military in a future Earth. Rather than the high-profile pilot or special forces positions he hoped for he becomes a Mobile Infantryman. A Grunt.

Through basic training to a disastrous first confrontation with the arachnid-like foe Johnny rises in rank and rounds fired.

I originally planned to boycott this film for having taken such liberties with Heinlein's book. But I admit to caving in because I wanted to see the effects. Good decision. The CGI in this film was simply superb. Whether it is a single, 8-ft tall arachnid rending a trooper, or thousands of bugs filling a valley during a battle scene, the effects work done here is unparalleled.

As for the changes from the book, I could list them and they'd go on forever. I will simply remark on the best and worst. Rather than one-man armies, with armour, flamethrowers, missiles and mini-explosives, the Cap Troopers are simply cannon-fodder with automatic rifles. Rather than the closure and personal growth of the book's end the movie's finish is designed to make sequels easy. We have a brain bug, they have our brains, we'll all be back next Summer. Also, the ethnicity of Rico (and Ibañez, Flores, etc.) is ignored. Everyone's whitebread and great-looking.

Best of all, and I admit to prejudging, here, was making Dizzy Flores a woman. She's played by Dina Meyer, a nice young redhead. Meyer's very attractive, but usually

really bland, as she was in Johnny Mnemonic and Dragonheart. Here she's tough, attractive, redheaded, capable, violent and gets covered in blood (both her own and bug-juice.) She's already a classic sci-fi babe.

There's all sorts of idiocy in this film. I've heard plenty of criticism about the unrealistic battles and scenes. Who cares? Every now and then you just have to have some mindless F/X, some gratuitous nudity and a whole buttload of UltraViolence.

McKinnon Grade: B+

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Halloween - was an excellent episode. A sinister presence comes to SunnyDale in the guise of a Janus-worshipping costume shop proprietor. All who wear a costume from his shop become their costume when he casts a spell on Halloween Night. So Buffy, dressed as a high-born renaissance woman to impress Angel, becomes a vacuous, black-haired maiden in a tight-bodied hoop dress. In keeping with this become-what-you-aren't theme, Xander transforms into a tough, capable G.I. Joe; Willow, in a white sheet with "Boo!" written on the front, becomes an insubstantial ghost. Lots of children become daemons and such, helping Spike pursue the helpless Buffy.

We also get clued into Giles' secret past. The costume shop owner calls him Ripper. And Giles, when he goes to the costume shop to break the spell, exhibits un-librarian behaviour in spades. He sends Willow away before brutally beating the man, at one point viciously kicking him in the spine while prostrate. Ooh.

Note: under her ghost sheet Willow was dressed as a real tart, with red hair up, belly exposed and mini-skirt high on the thigh. It's somewhat unfortunate the spell wasn't cast earlier, so Willow could have whored her way through SunnyDale. She looked sweet, even when sexed up, much like Sarah Paulson in **American Gothic**. What a cutie.

Lie to Me - as one might expect, featured

deceit. An old school friend of Buffy, Ford, knows her Slayer identity. He approaches Spike with a deal: Ford will deliver Buffy to Spike if Spike will grant Ford eternal life by making him a vampire. Ford, it seems, has terminal cancer, and is willing to sell out Buffy and sacrifice a group of vampire wannabees to relieve his pain and gain undead life.

When Buffy escapes the trap by threatening Spike's paramour, Druscilla, Ford's reward is simply death.

We also find out Angel's responsible not only for siring Spike but for Druscilla's vampirism and madness, too. Along with the ethics of Ford's acts we're presented with Angel, Willow and Xander's sin of omission: they distrust and research Ford behind Buffy's back. In a completely gratuitous and lame vein: we get to see what Willow sleeps in (an oversized nightshirt) and we get to see her underwear (although she's not wearing it at the time.) Yes, I know how much I need a life.

The Dark Age - was just the second lame episode of the show. In an attempt to fill us in on some of Giles' shady past (as a college student he and colleagues played with a daemon, and surprise, it comes back to haunt them) the show's best elements were all but ignored. No character interaction, poor sarcasm, an almost complete lack of the element of fun, and Giles' nascent romance with Callendar seems at least momentarily derailed. Thank goodness this sort of thing is an aberration.

The Wink of an Eye

Mission: Genesis

Sci-fi Channel, Mondays, 10 p.m. E.T.

Premiering long before the new Jeri Ryan version of **Voyager**, this is the show everyone was calling "Melrose Space" in mid-July. Six physically attractive, intelligent, capable crew pilot a ship, the *Deepwater*, back to Earth. Their cargo is humanity itself, genetic material with which to repopulate a plague-erased planet. When the ship encounters an emergency the crew is

'cloned' from their predecessors to deal with the crisis. An error cuts short this process, so rather than middle-aged scientists and technicians with fully-developed memories, they're slim, svelte, muscular teens with convenient gaps in their memories. Convenient enough to 'remember' just-in-time and solve this week's dilemma.

This show is crap. Made on a shoestring it demonstrates just how much of an achievement **Dr. Who** was with its meagre resources. Early on the producers crowded about buying clothes right out of local malls and rendering them futuristic with shiny tape, sewed inserts and colours. Don't be so proud, I say. What you ended up with looks like K-mart blue light garbage with duct tape or sparkles stuck on it.

The first episode featured the crew's awakening from stasis covered in green jelly. Well, covered except for their heads, so we can get nice, clear introductory shots of their characters' faces. And it's not jelly, it's a body suit with shiny green material sewn into it. The same caucasian-coloured material was used for the black characters.

The crew seems to have been chosen to represent a broad and even selection of ethnicity and race. 3 men, 3 women. 3 caucasian, 3 minorities. So, howcome they're all American and there are no Asians or Hispanics? Because the casting, like the writing, effects, acting and concept is half-assed at best. Not even the super-cute Nicole de Boer, as Yuna (who looked smashing in a slick pink gown recently) can get me to watch this show regularly. Even de Boer is only a half-assed version of Mega Babe Angelina (**Hackers**) Jolie.

Recommendation: **Mission: Avoidance**

Web Sites

the unofficial jeri lynn ryan homepage
www.globalserve.com/~ecotoon/seven

Sometimes you just get lucky. This past Summer, with Ryan joining **Voyager**, someone was bound to start a webpage. In fact, Ryan herself is quoted in Vanity Fair as expressing surprise that there was a fully-functional webpage on her and her character

before she'd even walked onto the set. Where we got lucky was that the webmaster of this site has done a splendid job.

The site contains all the usual, pictures, interviews, quotes, filmography, etc. What separates this site from others is the rapidity of the updates. As soon as the new TV Guides that featured Dax and Seven of Nine were on the shelves the relevant material was online. And whenever and wherever online or print media refer to Ryan or Seven of Nine it is almost immediately here.

An interesting small feature is a set of pictures from Ryan's Northwestern University Homecoming, where she won the crown.

Alien Resurrection

www.alien-resurrection.com

Current trends in online movie sites are to ignore the usual Interviews, Pictures, Credits format, and to make the site some sort of interactive experience. This site does a decent job of that, with graphics and layout making it seem like you're at a console set in Ellen Ripley's future.

In the end, though, it's still just a clever way of presenting information about the film. What is good about this site is that it's an official organ of 20th Century Fox. So, there are reams of clips, pictures and data from the first three films, too, which really serve to gear you up for the new movie. (Well, providing you manage to doublethink your way through the **Alien³** material.)

Starship Troopers

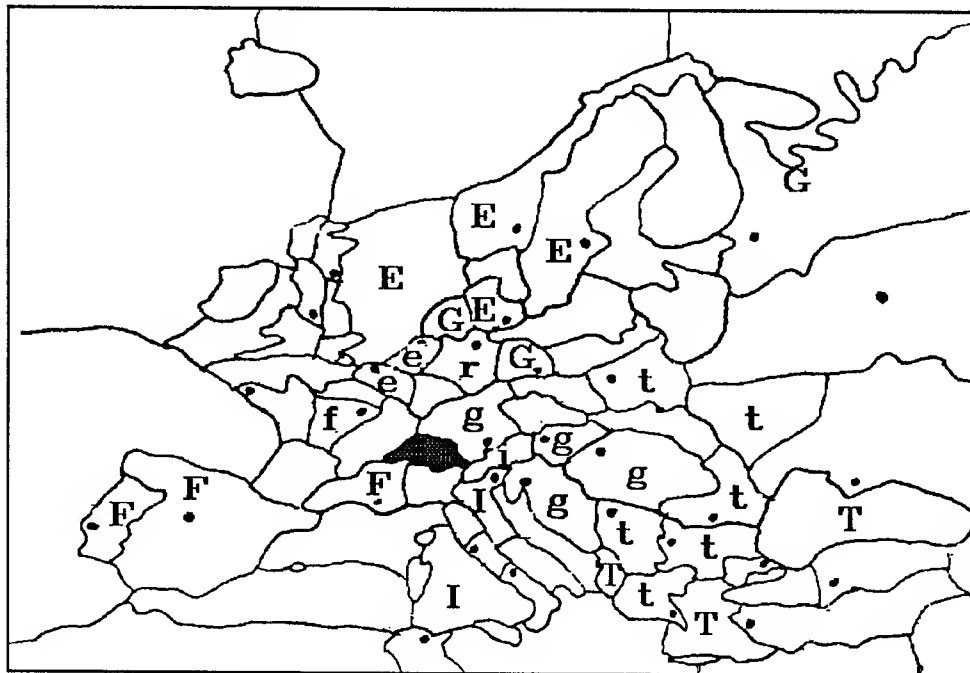
www.starshiptroopers.com

The theme at this site is to carry on with the pseudo-news element from the movie. Shockwave applications are used to make the site very motion-intensive, very flashy, and quite enjoyable. You can waste a lot of time here looking at the in-depth material written to provide background on the Mobile Infantry from the film.

Also, SONY has joined hands with BackWeb, a 'push' technology company. If you download the BackWeb programmes they automatically search for and load **Starship Troopers** material: screen savers, wallpaper, clips, video, audio and the like.

Diplomacy 22, Pop Goes the Weasel, 1995F, F 14

"Sultan goes searching for Ali Baba."



England (Holley): A Hol S R. A Kie, A Bel S A Hol, F Ska-Den, F Nth S F Ska-Den, F Swe S F Ska-Den, F Nwy-StP(nc).

France (Scharf): F Spa(nc) S F Mid-Por, A Bur-Par, F Mar H, F Mid-Por.

Germany (J. Schultz): Ret A Bur-Mun, A Spa-Por, F Swe-Bal. F Bal-Ber, A Mun S F Bal-Ber, A Den-Kie, F Hel S A Den-Kie, A Por-Spa, A Gal-Vie, A Bud S A Gal-Vie, A Tri S A Gal-Vie, F StP(nc) U.

Italy (Milewski): A Vie-Bud (ret Boh, OTB), F Ven S T. F Alb-Tri(NSO), A Pie-Tyr, F Wme-Tyn.

Russia (Lurz): A Kie H.

Turkey (R. Schultz): NMR! A Gre U, A Ukr U, A War U, F Alb U, F Aeg U, F Bla U, A Ser U, A Bul U, A Rum U.

Would Jim O'Kelley standby for Turkey?

E/G/T Draw Fails

Supply Center Chart

England	Lon, Lvp, Edi, Bel, Hol, Nwy, Swe, Den=8	Build 2
France	Bre, Par, Mar, Por, Spa=5	Build 1
Germany	Ber, Mun, Mos, StP, Bud, Tri, Vie=7	Even
Italy	Ven, Nap, Rom, Tun=4	Even
Russia	Kie=1	Even
Turkey	Con, Smy, Ank, Bul, Rum, Ser, Gre, Sev, War=9	Even

PRESS

New Germany - World: Wow! Was that ever a painful NMR! What in the world is going on here? And how did Germany come to such a state of utter confusion? I'll dance with whoever invites me!

Russia - England: Sorry Melinda about the lack of support into Denmark. I just wanted to leave this game with the playing field a little more even than when I found it.

Diplomacy 24, Number Please, 1996P, F 10

"Aside from the Austrian NMR, things are very uneventful."

Austria (Toush): NMR! A Tri U, A Tyr U, A Ven U, A Vie U, A Gal U.

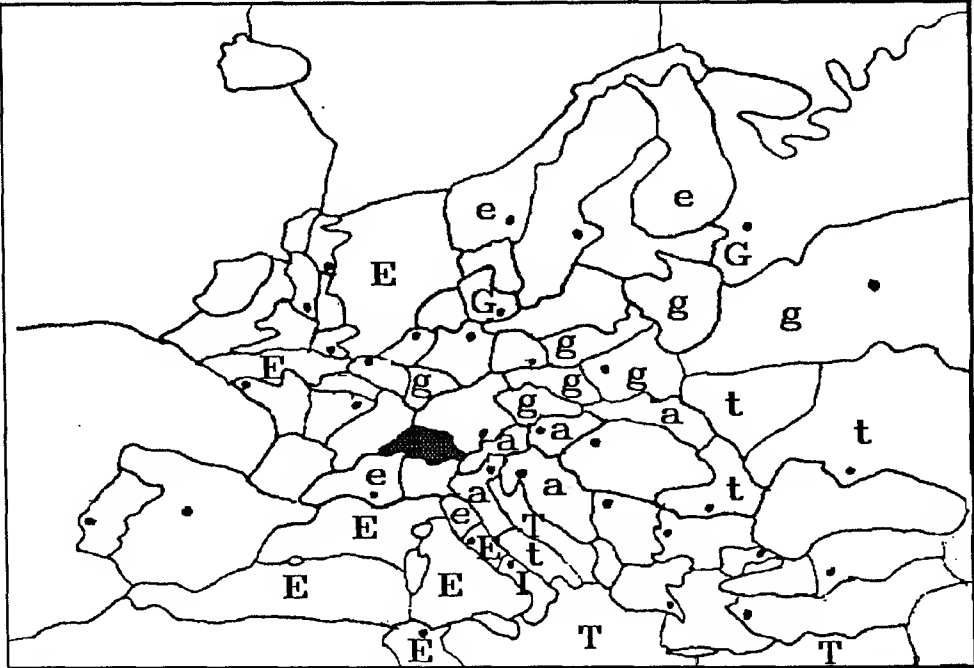
England (Wiedemeyer): A Nwy H, F Nth H, F Ech H, F Wme S F Lyo-Tyn, A Mar H, F Lyo-Tyn, A Tus S G. A Pie-Ven(NSO), F Tyn-Nap, F Rom S F Tyn-Nap, F Tun-Ion, A Fin H.

Germany (Zarr): NRR, ret A Tyr-OTB..F StP(sc) H, F Den H, A Lva S A Mos, A Mos S A War, A War S A Sil-Gal,

A Sil-Gal,A Ber-Pru,A Mun-Boh,A Kie-Ruh.

Italy (CD): F Nap U.

Turkey (Spiel): A Apu S F Ion-Nap,F Ion-Nap,F Adr-Ion,F Eme S F Adr-Ion,A Rum S A. A Gal,A Ukr S A. A Gal,
A Sev S A Ukr.



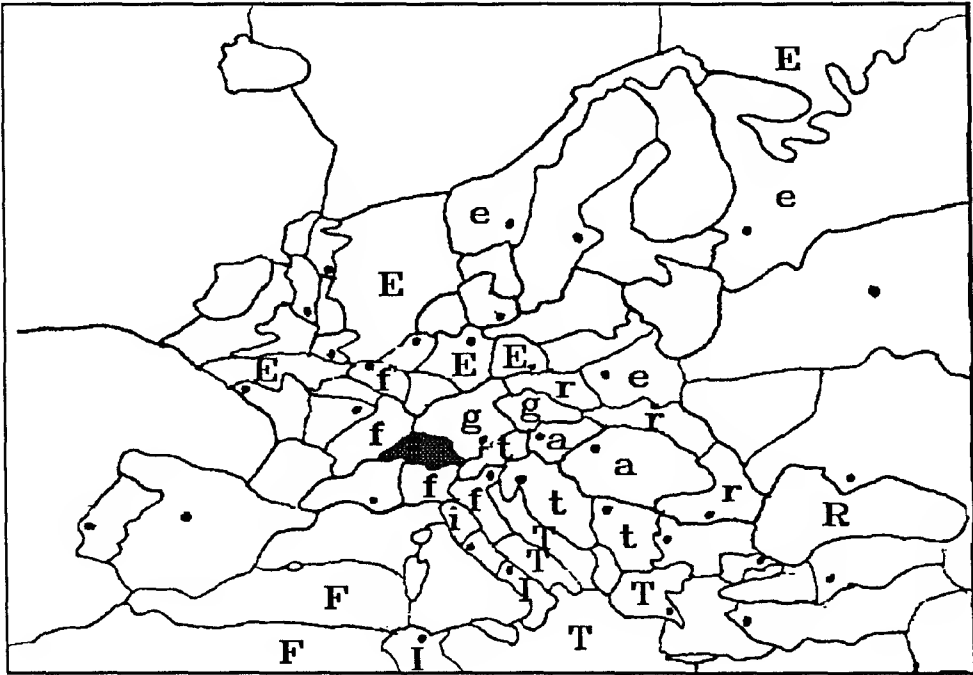
Would Bill McCullam standby for Austria?

Supply Center Chart

Austria	Vie,Tri,Bud,Ser,Ven=5	Even
England	Lon,Lvp,Edi,Bel,Spa,Por,Bre,Nwy,Mar,Tun,Rom=11	Even
Germany	Kie,Mun,Ber,Den,Hol,Par,Swe,War,StP,Mos=10	Build 1
Italy	Nap=1	Even
Turkey	Con,Smy,Ank,Bul,Rum,Sev,Gre=7	Even

Diplomacy 25,Pattycake Pattycake,1996AW,F 07

"Another NMR.A few strategic mistakes that I can see."



Austria (Wiedemeyer): A Vie S A Bud,A Bud S A Vie.
England (Broemer): F Nth C A Yor-Nwy,F Bar S A Nwy-StP,F Ech S F. A Pic-Bel,F Kie-Ber,F Den-Kie,A Yor-Nwy,
A Nwy-StP,A Mos-War.
France (R. Davis): Ret A Bel-Pic..F Mid-Naf,A Rom-Ven,A Pic-Bel,F Wme S F Mid-Naf,A Pie S A Rom-Ven,
A Bur S A Pic-Bel.
Germany (J. Schultz): A Mun-Boh,A Ruh-Mun,A Hol-Ruh(NSU),A Bel-U(ret Hol,Ruh,OTB).
Italy (Bardach): F Nap S F. F Wme-Tyn(NSO),F Tyn-Tun,A Tus S F. A Rom-Ven.
Russia (R. Schultz): NMR! A Sil U,A Gal U,A Rum U,F Bla U.
Turkey (Zarr): F Ion-Apu,F Eme-Ion,F Gre S F Eme-Ion,F Adr S A Ven,A Ven H,A Tyr-Vie,A Tri S A Tyr-Vie,A Ser H.

Would Tim Lurz standby for Russia?

Supply Center Chart

Austria	Vie,Bud=2	Even
England	Lon,Lvp,Edi,Nwy,Swe,Den,Kie,Ber,StP,War=10	Build 2
France	Bre,Par,Mar,Por,Spa,Bel,Ven=7	Build 1
Germany	Mun,Hol=2	Remove 1
Italy	Nap,Rom,Tun=3	Even
Russia	Mos,Sev,Rum=3	Remove 1
Turkey	Con,Smy,Ank,Bul,Gre,Ser,Tri=7	Even

PRESS

Germany - World: I'm either a lackey for the EF at this point or I'm just plain old dead meat. I tried to bargain the best deal I could.

England - Germany: You have a deal. Take the front line and please vacate Belgium and Holland.

Italy - Turkey: Still alive and getting stronger.

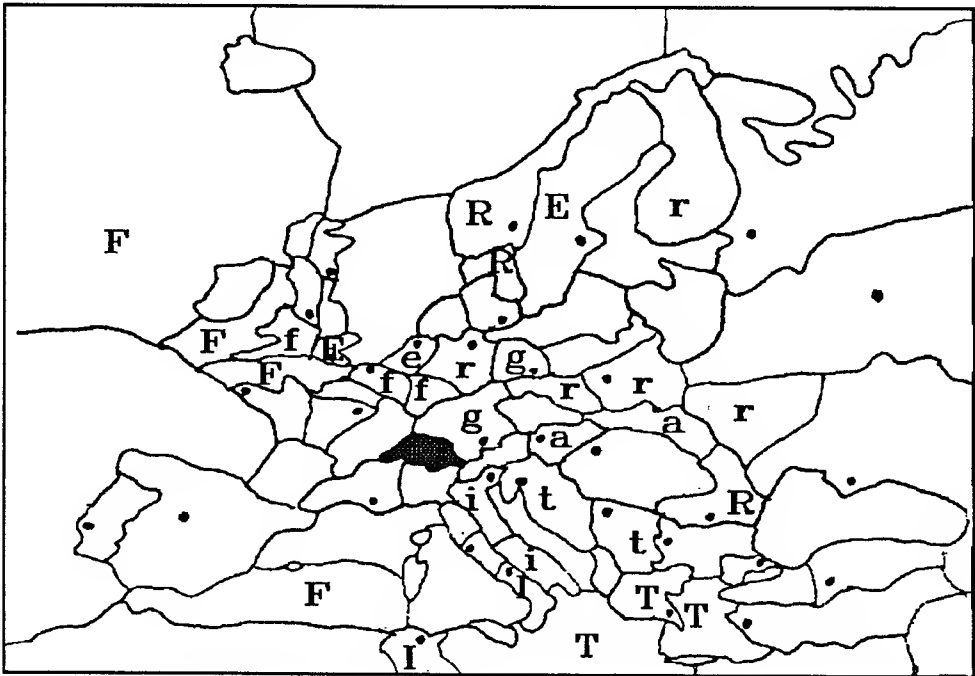
Germany - England: Thanks for the offer. I hope you accepted my counter. For me, its the play of the game that counts - not the survival.

England - Austria: You're hitched to a sinking ship. Join us. Row well, and live.

GM - England: Every time I hear the phrase "join us" all I can think of is The Evil Dead.

Dip 26,Looks the Same/Tastes the Same,1996HM,W 04/S 05

"Marine landing in Apulia repulsed."



Austria (McCullam): Rem F Apu..A Bud-Gal,A Vie S A Bud-Gal,A Tri H(ret Tyr,Bud,OTB).
England (Narhi): F Swe S R. F Nwy,F Nth-Lon,A Hol-Bel,F Nat-Lvp(ret Cly,Nwg,OTB).
France (Grabar): Bld A Bre..F Mid-Nat,F Iri S F Mid-Nat,A Bre-Wal,F Ech C A Bre-Wal,F Spa(sc)-Wme,A Bur-Ruh,
A Bel S A Bur-Ruh.
Germany (Scharf): Rem A Pru..A Ber S A Sil-Mun,A Sil-Mun.
Italy (Dorneman): Ret F Ion-Tun..A Tyr-Ven,A Ven-Apu,F Nap S A Ven-Apu,F Tun H.
Russia (Zarr): Bld A StP..A StP-Fin,F Ska S F Nwy,F Nwy S F Ska,A Kie-Ber,A Gal-Sil,A War S A Gal-Sil,A Ukr-Gal,
 F Rum H.
Turkey (B. Wilson): Bld A Con..A Con-Apu,A Ser S A Alb-Tri,A Alb-Tri,F Ion C A Con-Apu,F Aeg C A Con-Apu,
 F Gre S F Ion.

PRESS

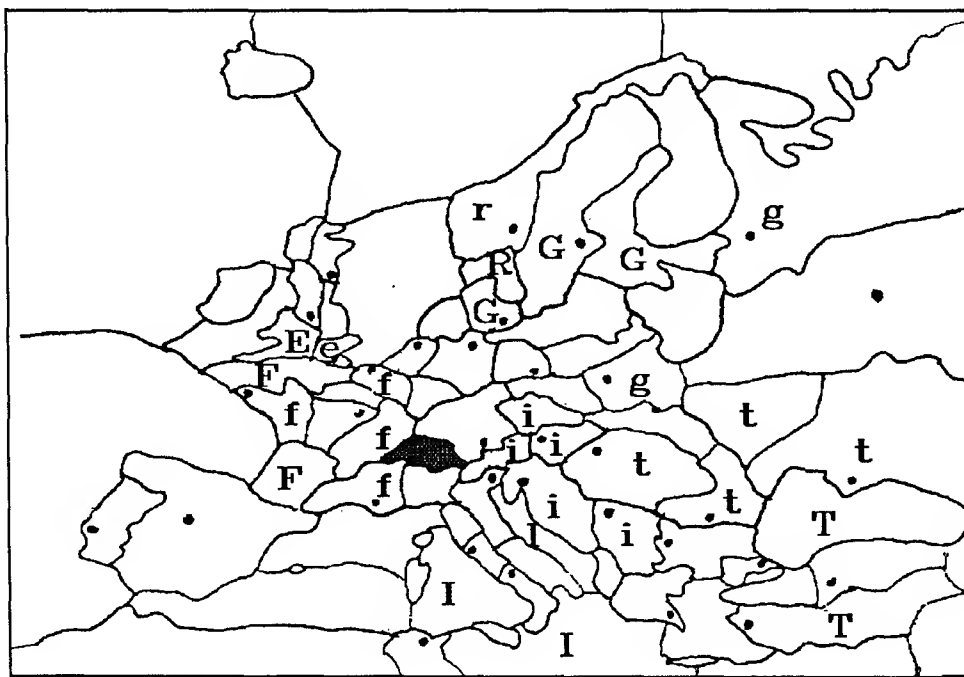
Paris - Rome: My fleet is only here to support your position.

Italy - World: 1997 bad. 1998 good?

Germany - Turkey: Are you out of position or what? You must trust Russia an awful lot or aren't too bright...or maybe he owes you money...which is it?

Diplomacy 27,You Have Just Been Poisoned,1997C,F 05

"Center-swapping results in England back where he started and Austria gone for good."



Austria (Zarr): ~~A Bud S T. A Bul Ser~~(ret Gal,OTB).
England (Lurz): ~~F Nwy H~~(ret Bar,Nwg,Nth,OTB),A Yor-Lon,F Lvp-Wal.
France (K. Wilson): F Mid-Gas,A Mar S A Par-Bur,A Par-Bur,A Pic-Bel,A Bre-Pic,F Ech S A Pic-Bel.
Germany (R. Davis): ~~A Bur-Pic~~(ret Ruh,Mun,OTB),A War-Mos,F GoB S A Lva-StP,F Swe-Nwy,
~~A Bel S A Bur-Pic~~(ret Ruh,Hol,OTB),A Lva-StP,F Kie-Den.
Italy (Goesle): F Ion does photo shoot for next SI Swimsuit edition (H),F Tyn searches for lost continent of Atlantis (H),
 F Adr sells Club Med resort to Microsoft, begins development of Windows '06 (H),A Tyr-Boh,A Ven-Tyr,
 A Vie opens sausage factory (H),A Tri S A Ser,A Ser S T. A Rum-Bud.
Russia (Grabar): A StP-Nwy,F Ska S A StP-Nwy.
Turkey (York): A Con-Sev,A Bul-Rum,A Rum-Bud,F Bla C A Con-Sev,F Aeg-Smy,A Ukr-Mos.

Supply Center Chart

Austria	None=0	OUT!
England	Lon,Lvp,Edi=3	Even
France	Bre,Par,Mar,Por,Spa,Bel=6	Even
Germany	Kie,Ber,Mun,Hol,Den,Swe,War,StP=8	Build 1

Italy	Ven,Nap,Rom,Tun,Gre,Ser,Tri,Vie=8
Russia	Mos,Nwy=2
Turkey	Con,Smy,Ank,Bul,Rum,Sev,Bud=7

Even
Even
Build 1

PRESS

Paris - Berlin: Looks like they are closing in from all sides. Let's continue the dance.

Italy - France/Germany/Turkey: Thanks for all the notes this season. You have renewed my enthusiasm for this game. Now, where did I put that knife?...

Moscow - Rome: I am not quitting, I'm just causing problems in the north. I don't have any intentions of winning.

Italy - Germany: It's not too late. All we've lost is a season. This is still doable my way.

Paris - Rome: Oh the carnage!!!

Germany - E/F/I: Yes? I haven't heard from you lately.

Italy - England: I've heard lots about you lately. I'd like to hear it from you.

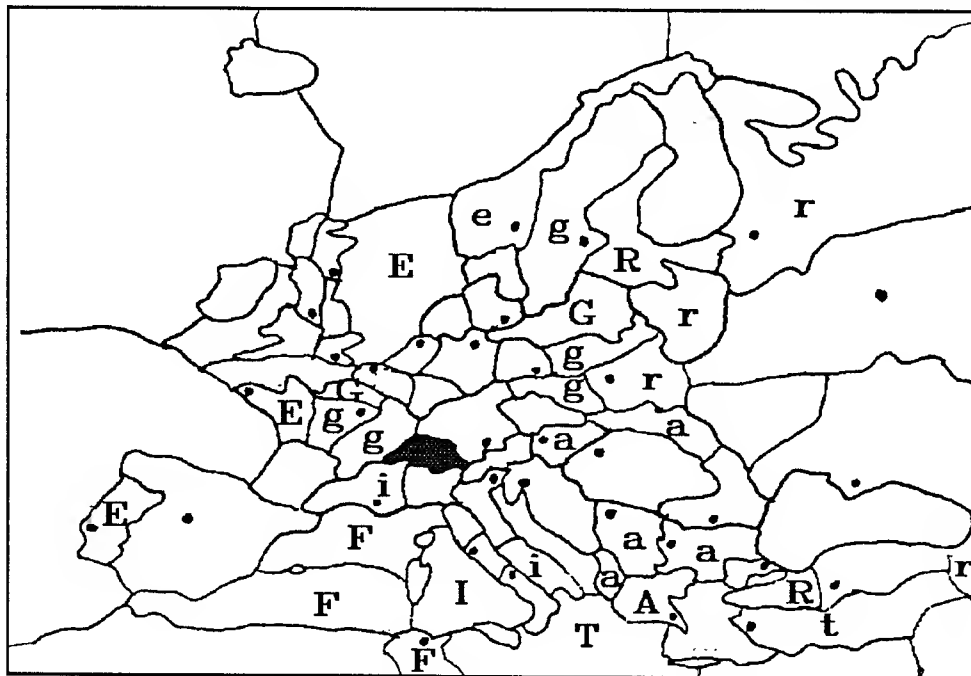
Paris - London: Now what may I do to repay you in kind?

Italy - Dip 28 Austria: I don't want to stick my "snout" into your press. I just want to borrow some of it, since it's usually livelier than ours. Heck, what are you going to do about it anyway? Declare war on me? You'd have to ally with Zarr to do that.

Paris - Constantinople: You don't write. You don't call. Was it something I did?

Diplomacy 28,I am a Free Man,1997R,F 03

"France and Turkey seem to be on the ropes, although the African campaign looks interesting."



Austria (O'Kelley): A Bud-Gal,A Vie-Tri,A Ser-Tri,F Gre-Aeg,A Alb-Gre,A Bul S R. F Bla-Con.

England (Bardach): F Ska-Nth,F Ech-Bre,F Mid-Por,A Nwy S G. A Swe.

France (Zarr): A Par-Bre,F Lyo-Tyn,F Wme S F Naf-Tun,F Naf-Tun.

Germany (Spiel): A Pru-Lva,A Swe S E. A Nwy,F Bal S A Swe,A Mun-Sil,A Gas-Par,A Bur S A Gas-Par, F Pic S E. F Ech-Bre.

Italy (Hagy): A Ven-Apu,A Mar H,F Tun H(ret Ion,OTB),F Tyn S F Tun.

Russia (Heath): Ret F Swa-GoB..F GoB S A StP-Lva,A StP-Lva,A Fin-StP,A Ukr-War,A Arm-Smy,F Bla-Con.

Turkey (Wiedemeyer): F Ion-Adr,F Con-Aeg(ret Ank,OTB),A Smy-Con.

Supply Center Chart

Austria	Tri,Vie,Bud,Ser,Gre,Bul=6
England	Lon,Lvp,Edi,Nwy,Bre,Por=6
France	Spa,Tun=2
Germany	Kie,Mun,Ber,Hol,Bel,Den,Swe,Par=8
Italy	Ven,Nap,Rom,Mar=4
Russia	War,Sev,Mos,StP,Rum,Con=6
Turkey	Smy,Ank=2

Even
Build 2
Remove 1
Build 1
Even
Even
Remove 1

PRESS

France - Austria: I am doing all I can to keep Italy down. Why not take advantage of all my good work against both Italy and Germany. Do you really think Germany will ignore you forever?

Italy - World: My email is broken, please use regular mail.

Austria - Germany: Your side? Listen, pal, Surly looks out for one person. Surly.

London - World: Finally some center(s)!

Germany - Austria: If Austria declares war on Germany I'll concede. I prefer to root for the underdog, in this case Austria.

France - Italy: Feeling a bit frustrated? I will give up my supply centers to Germany before I give them up to you!

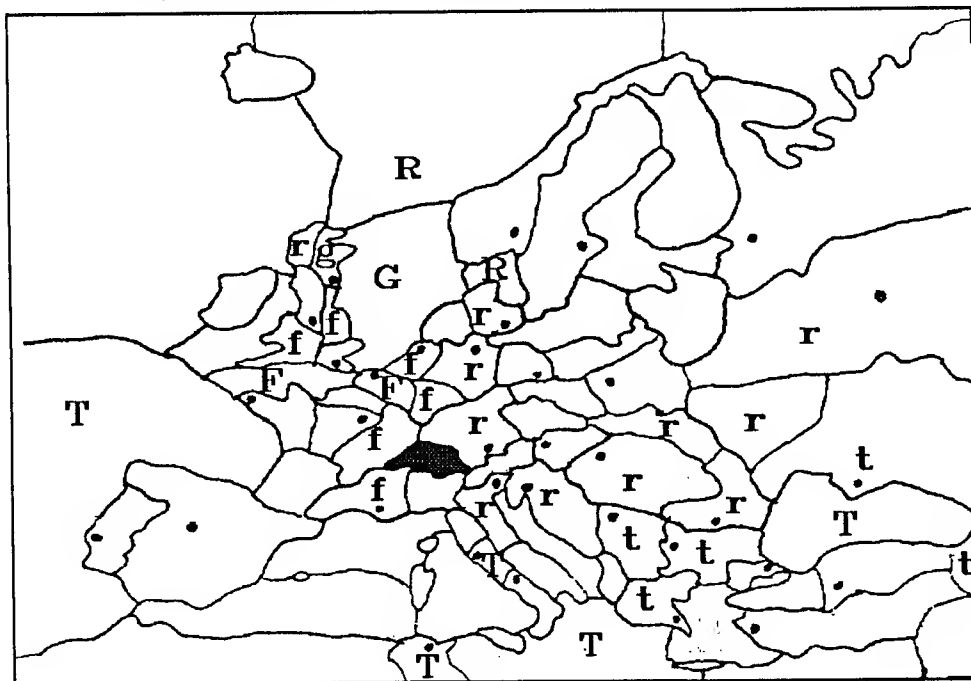
Austria - World: Please note my new email address, jimok3@concentric.net.

Germany - France: I took you down swiftly, and mercifully. Why don't you sharpen that butterknife you're using in Game 24.

France - Turkey: Free supply centers for the taking! Enjoy!

Gunboat 12,Three Wavy Lines,1996Frb32,F 09

"Italy drops from the map, leaving just 4 more nations."



France: NMR! A Wal U,F Ech U,A Ruh U,A Hol U,A Yor U,A Bur U,F Bel U,A Mar U.

Germany: A Edi-Nwy,F Nth C A Edi-Nwy.

Italy: A Ven S T. A Ser-Tri(ret Pie,Tus,Apu,OTB).

Russia: A Cly S F. A Wal-Lvp(NSO),A Rum S T. F Bla-Ank(Imp),A Mos S T. A Sev,F Nwg-Edi,F Ska-Nwy,
A Mun S A Kie,A Den S A Kie,A Kie S A Mun,A Ukr S A Rum,A Bud S A Rum,A Gal S A Rum,A Tyr-Ven,
A Tri S A Tyr-Ven.

Turkey: F Wme-Mid,F Ion-Tun,F Rom H,F Aeg-Ion,A Gre S A Ser,A Ser S R. A Bud-Tri(NSO),A Bul S A Ser,
F Bla S A Sev,A Arm S A Sev,A Sev S R. A Ukr-War(Imp).

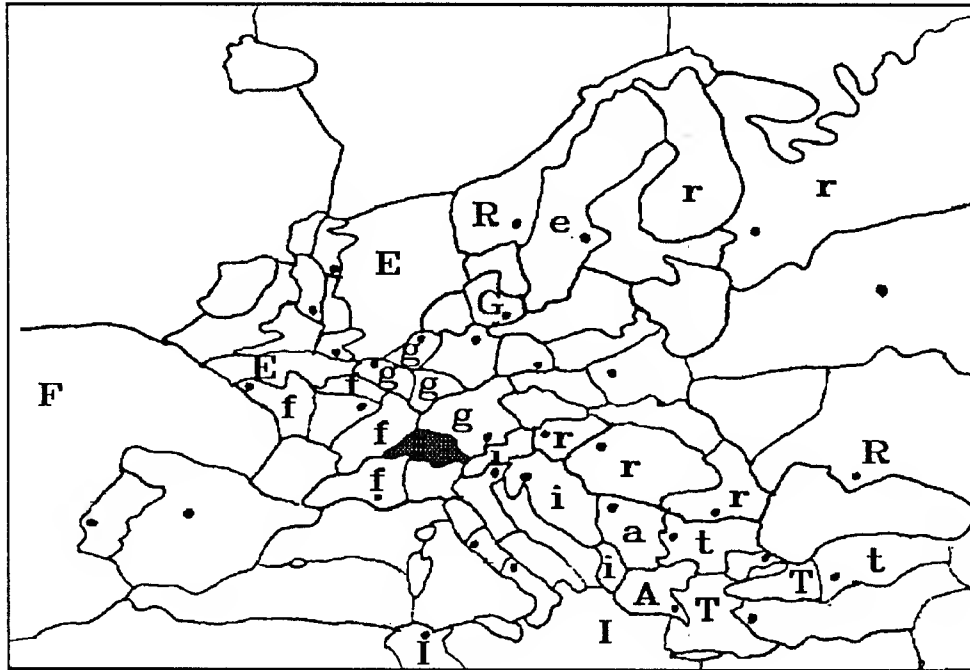
F/R/T Draw Fails

Supply Center Chart

France	Bre,Par,Mar,Por,Spa,Bel,Hol,Lon=8	Even
Germany	Lvp,Edi=2	Even
Italy	None-0	OUT!
Russia	StP,Mos,War,Nwy,Swe,Den,Bud,Tri,Vie,Ven,Ber,Mun,Kie,Rum=14	Build 1
Turkey	Con,Smy,Ank,Bul,Ser,Gre,Sev,Nap,Rom,Tun=10	Even

Gunboat 13,That is a Lie,1997Erb32,F 03

"I should probably call this Black Hole Gunboat with all the NMR's."



Austria: A Ser S F Gre,F Gre S T. F Aeg-Ion(NSO).

England: NMR! F Ech U,F Nth U,A Swe U,A Nwy U.

France: F Mid S A Bre,A Pic S A Bur,A Bur S E. F Ech-Bel(NSO),A Bre S A Pic,A Mar S A Bur.

Germany: NMR! A Bel U,A Mun U,F Den U,A Ruh U,A Hol U.

Italy: A Tri-Vie,A Tyr S A Tri-Vie,A Alb-Tri,F Ion-Eme,F Tun-Ion.

Russia: Ret F Swe-Ska..A Fin S F Ska-Nwy,A StP S F Ska-Nwy,F Ska-Nwy,F Sev S A Rum,A Rum S A Bud,
A Bud S A Vie-Tri,A Vie-Tri.

Turkey: A Bul S A. A Ser,F Aeg-Eme,F Bla-Con,A Smy-Ank.

Supply Center Chart

Austria	Ser,Gre=2	Even
England	Lon,Lvp,Edi,Swe=4	Build 1
France	Par,Bre,Mar,Por,Spa=5	Even
Germany	Kie,Ber,Mun,Den,Hol,Bel=6	Build 1
Italy	Ven,Nap,Rom,Tun,Tri=5	Even
Russia	War,Mos,Sev,StP,Rum,Vie,Bud,Nwy=8	Build 1
Turkey	Con,Smy,Ank,Bul=4	Even

Colonial Dip 1, Why Did You Resign?, 1995Wea04, 1904 Delayed

Since there were a few too many NMR's this issue, and because this weekend seems to have caught people off guard, I'm holding over this turn due to two NMR's...especially because I don't have a decent list of standby players for this game. I'll run 1904 next issue regardless, although I expect both NMRing players to return by then. Here is the 1902 report again (minus the press):

Colonial Dip 1, Why Did You Resign?, 1995Wea04, 1902

"The fun resumes - war, carnage, looting, hostility!"

China (Oliveri): Ret A Can-HK, Bld A Sik, A Pek, A Sha, plays 1 short..A Sik-KAG, A Pek-MAC, A Sha-PEK, A HK S A Yun-Can, A BEN H, A PER S F Pg-Shi(NSO), A KAR S A Per, A UBUR-May, A Kag-KIR, A Yun-CAN, A MON-Kra, A URU S A Kag-Kir, F PART S A Fus-Seo, A Bom-RAJ, F Mac-SHA.
France (Scharf): A Nsam-RAN, ~~F Can-H~~(ret Ton, Nan, OTB), F MAL-Sin, F NEW H, A MAY S A Nsam-Ran, F GOS-Mal, A BAN S A Nsam-Ran, F SCS H.
Holland (McQuinn): Ret A Ban-Cam, Rem F Pg, F Mp..F Sio-TS, F RS-Med, F SUNS-Gos, F EGY S F Rs-Med and allows use of canal, F SAR S F As-Js, F AS-Js, F Ls-CEBU, F DAV S F Ls-Cebu, F Ran-U, F BOB-As, F MED-Syr, A Cam-COC, F JS-Sin, F Lp-Cs(NSU).
Japan (K. Wilson): Bld F Tok, A Kyu..F Tok-OS, A KYU H, F MNA S F Up-Mp, F Ys-ECS, F FOR-Scs, A Fus-SEO, F Os-VLA, F Up-MP.
Russia (McHugh): Ret F Med-Con..F CON-Med, F BS-Con, F ANG-Syr, A Tab-BAG, ~~A Kir-H~~(ret Tas, Akm, Sem, OTB), F Vla-SOJ, ~~F Seo(wc)~~ S ~~F Vla-Soj~~(ret Ys, OTB), A ARM S A Tab-Bag, A SHI S A Tab-Bag, A OMSK-Kra.
Turkey (Lurz): Rem F Syr..~~A Bag-H~~(ret Ara, OTB).

African Dip #4, Why?, 1997Cdm04, F 04

"Ethiopian King lost in sandstorm during dry season."

Ethiopia (R. Schultz): NMR! A TAN U, A UGA U, F RED U, F GOA U, A KOR U, ~~A Mit-U~~(ret Kis, OTB).
Ivory Coast (Acheson): F MID S F Gog, A CHA H, F Nao-MOR, A MAU S F Nao-Mor, A WSD-Tri, ~~F Gog S F Mid~~(ret Cam, Gha, Abi, OTB).
Libya (Crandlemire): Ret F Wme-Spa..A NGA-Oua(Imp), F Tun-WME, F SPA S F Tun-Wme, A TRI-Ben, A Eri-ADD.
S. Arabia (Bardach): A MEC S A Egy, F Eme-BEN, ~~F Wme S F Ben-Ion~~(ret Nao, Alg, OTB), A EGY S F Eme-Ben, A Tur-IRQ, F Ben-Ion, F ITA S F Ben-Ion.
S. Africa (K. Wilson): F Sio-MCH, F Por-SIO, A CON S A Lub-Mit, F SWA-Mid, A MOZ-Tan, A ZAM S A Lub-Mit, F Kin-GOC, F Goc-GOG, A Lub-MIT, F GAB S F Goc-Gog, F Mad-NIO.

Would Steve McKinnon standby for Ethiopia?

Supply Center Chart

Ethiopia	Som, Dji, Uga, Tan, Kis=5	Remove 1
I. Coast	Fre, Abi, Oua, Tim, Sen, Mor, Cha=7	Build 1
Libya	Tun, Tri, Spa, Kha, Nga, Add=6	Build 1
S. Arabia	Riy, Mec, Dam, Irn, Egy, Den, Gre=7	Even
S. Africa	Por, Cap, Pre, Zam, Zim, Nam, Kin, Lub, Gab, Ang, Mad=11	Even

PRESS

Mecca - Addis Ababa: I'm just bait, the shark is to your South.

Pretoria - Tripoli: I don't know what you said to make all your neighbors so angry with you, but I suggest you not do it again, for your sake. For my sake, please don't stop.

Maximum Leader Muammar "Krazy" Khaddafi - All True Muslims: Aiiiiiyeeee!!!! This is the battle for the fruit of the faithful! Let the wicked and corrupt feel the wrath of our just and mighty blades! Disperse, disperse to the four winds, my minions! Take the battle to the defiled vermin wherever they may be! They shall know no rest on this earth and they shall taste only ashes everafter. Only you, the faithful, shall know the pleasures of the just, the caress of the houris, and the...huh? Wazzat? They're at the city gates, now?! OK, that's enough then, get out there and kill, kill, kill! I'll be right behind you.

Mecca - Hole in the Ground: I just might have made a mistake by going after you. I thought at least one other country would try to stop the boars.

Balkan Wars VI #2,KAR 120C,1997Bpb08,F 12 Delayed

Since there were a few too many NMR's this issue, and because this weekend seems to have caught people off guard, I'm holding over this turn due to two NMR's...especially because I don't have a decent list of standby players for this game. I'll run Fall 1912 next issue regardless, although I expect both NMRing players to return by then. Here is the Spring 1912 report again (minus the press):

Balkan Wars VI #2,KAR 120C,1997Bpb08,W 11/S 12

"New Rumanian King takes throne, vows to restore nation to greatness."

Albania (McKinnon): Ret A Nis-Sko,A Val-OTB,Rem A Mtj..A SKO H.

Bulgaria (McQuinn): Ret A Thr-Plo,Rem F Sal..A PLO-Thr,A Sof-DUB,A MAC S A Plo-Thr,F VAR S A Sof-Dub.

Greece (Crandlemire): Bld F Spa..F Spa-CYC,A Ath-SAL,F VAL-Tir,A EPI S A Ath-Sal,F Goc-SAS.

Rumania (R. Schultz): ~~F Dub S F Sbs~~(ret Constanta,Nbs,OTB),A BUC S A Olt,A OLT S A Buc,A CRO-Tri,
~~F Sbs S F Dub~~(ret Nbs,Mam,OTB).

Serbia (B. Wilson): Bld A Bel..A Bel-CRO,A MON-Nis,A HER S A Bel-Cro,A NIS-Sko,A TIR S A Nis-Sko.

Turkey (Levin): Bld A Smy,F Izm..A Smy-CON,F IZM S F Con-Sbs,F AEG S A Thr,F Rho-EME,A THR S A Smy-Con,
F Con-SBS.

Zine Recap

Here is a recap of the zines I received from 11/3/97 to 11/29/97. The number in brackets is the date I received the zine.

Ishkibibble #3 [11/5]. Phil gets through his first batch of chemo okay. His first game start and lots of move/tv/sports comments fill this issue. Phil Reynolds/2896 Oak Street, Sarasota, FL 34237/8pp/Free for 1 year if you get in a game.

Spring Offensive #55 [11/5]. Some games are disrupted due to Stephen's move, as he puts some orders in a "safe place" and then can't remember where that is. Another funny cover comic too. Stephen Agar/47 Preston Drove, Brighton, BN1 6LA, England/12pp/75p, L1.50 overseas.

Life's Rich Pageant #16 [11/6]. At 52 pages, I haven't had a chance to get through the whole zine yet. There are some new gamestarts and lots of waiting lists, and a large letter column to go with the subzine explosion. Kim Head/230A London Road, Croydon, CR0 2TF, UK/52pp digest/L1 plus postage.

Absolute! #56 [11/10]. Paul Kenny returns with a thinner issue, getting caught up with a Vertigo Games report and other bits of personal news. Paul Kenny/23 E. Coulter Ave., Collingswood, NJ 08108/16pp/\$0.75, or \$2.00 outside of North America.

Boris the Spider Vol 5 #35 [11/12]. Brad Wilson NMR's again in the new Balkan Wars game - for

shame! Paul Bolduc/203 Devon Ct., Ft. Falton Beach, FL 32547-3110/20pp digest/\$10.50 for 12 issues in the US, \$12 in Canada, \$18 elsewhere, or \$1 by email.

Boast #419 [11/13]. Just a flyer running down his last game. Herb Barents/17187 Wildemere, Detroit, MI 48221/2pp/No longer available.

Abyssinian Prince #196 [11/14]. Scott Hanson is found, we get Octopus' Garden again, and endgame statements for Ghods too. Jim Burgess/664 Smith St. Providence, RI 02908-4327/34p/\$1 in the US and Canada, \$2 elsewhere.

A Little Original Sin #53 [11/19]. Vick spends 10 days in the U.S. and lives to tell about it! All that and games, games, subzines, subzines, letters, subzines, and games. Vick Hall/115 Offord Road, Islington, London N1, England/64pp digest/L1 worldwide.

Costaguana #266 [11/20]. Conrad gives us the details of one of his off-the-wall dreams...my interpretation is that he needs to drink quite a bit more - Merlot or Scotch I think would help him the best, if only by keeping him from remembering his dreams at all. Conrad von Metzke/4374 Donald Ave., San Diego, CA 92117/14pp/\$7.50 for 10 issues.

MP Subscription List

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Ottawa, ON K1R 7X2, Canada (103)
 Agar, Stephen 47 Preston Drive, Brighton, BN1 6LA, England (T)
Bardach, Mike 6220 W. Peregrine, Tucson, AZ 85745 (104)
 Baxter, David 905 Parker Rd., Toutle, WA 98649 (108)
 Bernosky, Steve 10 Chardonay Ct.,
 Marlton, NJ 08053 [stevenb2@juno.com] (106)
 Broemer, Fulton 3104 Edloe, Suite 300,
 Houston, TX 77027 [bigtex713@aol.com] (B)
 Brosius, Eric 53 Bird St., Needham, MA 02192 (109.8)
 Burgdorf, Dr. Martin Avenida de Espana, 135, 2B-30-13,
 28230 Las Rozas, Spain (106)
 Burgess, Jim 664 Smith St Providence, RI 02908-4327 (T)
 Cannon, Brian J. 13404 Montego Dr. Poway, CA 92064 (109)
 Crandlemire, Pitt 7 Franklin St., #3
 Brookline, MA 02146 [pitte@syncon.com] (108.5)
 Davis, Fred 3210 K Wheaton Way Ellicott City, MD 21043 (106)
Davis, Rick 2009 Bodega Ave., Petaluma, CA 94952 (103.5)
 Dorneman, Stephen 67 Cherry St, Unit R-1,
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Grabar, Dave 1583 Truman St., Chowchilla, CA 93610 (104.5)
 Grose, Jim 435 Tillbury Ave, Bsmt., Ottawa, ON
 K2A 0Y5 Canada [grosej@em.agr.ca] (106.8)
 Hagy, Paul 1626 54th Place, La Grange, IL 60525
 [mphagy@gsbpop.uchicago.edu] (109)
 Hall, Vick 115 Offord Rd., Islington, London N1, England (T)
 Hardy, James 21 Gourley Road, Liverpool,
 L13 4AY England [james.hardy@crawfords.co.uk] (T + \$2.50)
 Head, Kim 230A London Road, Croydon, CR0 2TF, England (T)
 Heath, Randall C. 10628 Alabama Ave.,
 Chatsworth, CA 91311 [rheath@uccs.jpl.nasa.gov] (114)
Holley, Melinda 1823 Enslow Blvd.
Huntington, WV 25701 (101.66)
Kaszak, Kerry 1802 SESCO Arlington, TX 76013 (105)
Kendter Jr., Lee 1503 Pilgrim Lane
Quakertown, PA 18951 (104.3)
 Kenny, Paul 23 E. Coulter Ave., Collingswood, NJ 08108 (T)
 Kinney, Mark 3613 Coronado Dr., Louisville, KY 40241 (108)
 Levin, Alan 8538 N. Lotus #416 Skokie, IL 60077 (106)
 Lowrey, Michael 6503-D Fourwinds Dr. Charlotte, NC 28212 (T)
 Lurz, Tim c/o JE Technology, Chung-Cheng 2nd Rd, #141, 4th FL-1,
 Kaosiung, Taiwan R.O.C. [lurztim6@ms7.hinet.net] (106)
McCullam, Bill 9880 Fairmont Rd., Newbury, OH 44065 (102)
 McHugh, Jack 626 Littlecroft Rd.,
 Upper Darby, PA 19082 [jmchugh@iname.com] (T)
 McKinnon, Steven 1626 5th Ave., Apt 2 North,
 Troy, NY 12180 [Seska@ix.netcom.com] (112)
 McQuinn, James 1619 Shroyer Rd., Dayton, OH 45419-3215
 [jmquinn@delphi.com] (T)
 Milewski, Paul 7 Mallard Dr.,
 Amelia, OH 45102 (108)
Narhl, Ward 2241 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 (104)
 Nowak, Matt 8055 Freemantle Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80920 (108)
 O'Kelley, Jim 664 W. Irving Park Rd., Unit I-6,
 Chicago, IL 60613 [jimok3@concentric.net] (109.5)
 Oliveri, Michael 7237 Grand Palace Ave., Las Vegas,
 NV 89130-1168 [oliverima@aol.com] (123.6)
 Power, John c/o Trinidad LNG Project, Bechtel Corporation 3050/8
 PO Box 2166, Houston, TX 77252-2166 (108)
 Renken, Berry van Nootenstraat 6, 7981 DG Diever, Netherlands (106)
 Scharf, William 4814 Walnut Grove Ave.
 Rosemead, CA 91770 (107)
 Schultz, John POB 41-19390 E - E14
 Michigan City, IN 46361 (108)
 Schultz, Randall Lee HC74 Box 4136 Mayer, AZ 86333 (110.5)
 Scott, Mike 5508 Withers Ave.,
 Fontana, CA 92336 [mikesmag2@juno.com] (109)
 Siegel, Phil 3091 Johnson Pl., Wantagh, NY 11793
 [kqkb13a@prodigy.com] (\$12)
 Spiel, Saul 82-47 217th St, Hollis Hills, NY 11427 (106.8)
 Stimmel, Robert 2462 N. Sycamore Blvd, Casa de Sherry Apts.,
 Apt #57, Tucson, AZ 85712 (108)
 Tucker, Stuart c/o Avalon Hill Game Co. 4517 Harford Rd.
 Baltimore, MD 21214 (CC)
 von Metzke, Conrad 4374 Donald Ave, San Diego, CA 92117 (T)
 Welch, Kevin PO Box 2195, Madison, WI 53701 (106)
 Whyte, Brendan 96 Waiatarua Rd.,
 Remuera, Auckland 5, New Zealand (T)
Wiedemeyer, Fred 4311-76 Ave., Edmonton, AB
T6B 2H7 Canada [wiedem@planet.eon.net] (102.5)
 Wilson, Brad 123 N. 3rd St., 3rd Floor, Easton, PA 18042 (105.5)
 Wilson, Kevin 373 Gateford Dr.,
 Ballwin, MO 63021-8345 [ckevinw@aol.com] (106)
 York, W. Andrew PO Box 2307
 Universal City, TX 78148-1307 (105)
 Zarr, Harold 215 Glen Dr.,
 Iowa Falls, IA 50126 [hdzarr@dmacc.cc.ia.us] (111)

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